

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

In event of war, people of the Caucasus and Central Asia will seek complete independence; less so in the Ukraine and still less in Byelo-Russia. But the Caucasus is indispensable to a healthy USSR because of the oil; the Ukraine is an indispensable source of bread; and Siberia is a source of steel. Without these the USSR would be a third-rate power. This would add up to Rosenberg's China and if the Soviets thought this was an objective they would fight as they did against the Nazis.

Finland and the Baltic countries, however, are special cases, and should be considered in the light of historical facts. Finland's geographic position has always threatened Leningrad and Peter the Great fought to gain access to the Baltic, not to take the Baltic Countries. The same applies to the wars with Turkey for an outlet through the Straits. There is no genuine Great Russian demand for the Baltic States as such, but only for an outlet to the sea. Stalin's absorption of the Baltic States was a defensive move to push out the buffer against the German attack which was certain to come.

In Stalin's Questions of Leninism he states that to be a Union Republic a region must have a minimum of three million people and various qualifications. The 1936 Constitution guarantees the right to secede, etc. But, Stalin, with the other hand, has removed the population, etc, so that the Baltic States, Caucasus, etc, can no longer meet these qualifications.

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4.

You can't turn the clock of history back. Those who wanted to return would drift back when they gained freedom of movement. Federation such as the US form is the only answer. If the basic freedoms are guaranteed the problem would not be acute. One must remember that the Soviet Empire was won at great cost and that the RSFSR could not exist alone and that a fracturing policy would create another Great Patriotic War. The basic element is still the Great Russian. Credibility and trust must be built up and maintained by deeds and by clear framework of policy and a fixed program carried out. This was Hitler's mistake -- putting immediate colonization into effect.

5.

the meaning in application of the formula, "Nationalist in Form - Socialist in Content"

is to assure strict ideological control along Communist lines. At the end of the war the nationalities should have real cultural autonomy.

6.

7.

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8.

"Socialist in content" in practice means culture by command - directed from Moscow, which is resented by the local ethnic groups.

9.

There should be no control or direction of local cultures other than encouragement to let them develop freely.

10.

The people are fed up with continuous agitation meetings which they are forced to attend. People resent this steady encroachment on their private lives. The best solution would be to have a completely free press and radio without any captive audience or forced listening practice.

11.

The best agitator is the populace itself inside the USSR itself. Important events are known within five days thousands of kilometers away. For example, when the Germans entered the Baltic Countries their policy was to behave correctly and distribute goods taken from Soviet warehouses. This news, although naturally not in the press or on the radio, spread across the front several hundred kilometers. The same thing happened in reverse with their atrocities in the Ukraine. The best psychological-warfare technique is to have a just, humane policy and let the people themselves spread the word. This they will do in any case. Therefore, the policy must be a wise one.

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12.

Provocation was used extensively. People knew that the atrocities had been committed, but they didn't know who did them. [ ] the MGB would burn an entire village, say nothing about it, and let the word get around with the blame falling on the Germans. [ ] concerned about the hate-campaign currently going on and the probability that the MGB would commit atrocities in US uniform and place the blame on the Americans.

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13.

[ ] complete religious freedom must be promised. The religious issue has been important since the days of the German advance. Stalin's change of policy then was worth several well-armed divisions. Considerable popular support was gained thereby. Religion is especially important to the Great Russian people.

14.

It was due neither to early education in a seminary nor to change of heart due to age. The change was purely a political trick to win the support of older age groups. The church today has been taken over by the MGB and serves as a barometer to gauge public opinion, an historic role of the church. MGB agents serve as priests.

15.

There are a large number of prevalent superstitions, many of which have a religious basis, such as not whistling since it was believed that a part of the soul escapes this way.

16.

The role of religion is of very little importance except as an instrument of the MGB. No CP or Komsomol member is permitted to take an active part in religious activities. Youths would wear holy medals in secret to avoid the ridicule of their friends. Legends about miracles are widespread but people don't flock to them. A supply of crosses and religious icons is neither important or necessary. They are sold in Kiev on the Red Square. The church has cut itself off from the masses of the people by accepting support of the state. MVD agents report on what the people are saying; they take the pulse of the people.

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17.

[ ] someone, in an imitation of a child's scrawl, wrote "Down with Stalin". There was a great to do about this "extraordinary incident", the MVD, the MGB, etc., were called in and searching investigations were made.

18.

19.

[ ] the effectiveness of slogans now as compared with 1943 [ ]

Much more effective as people are disillusioned after wartime promises.

20.

All high functionaries take disappearance as an occupational hazard. It is assumed, from soft-peddling in the press prior to his death, that Dimitrov was poisoned. The same with Zhdanov and Kirov who was becoming too popular.

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[redacted] The people can distinguish between Communists. If they elect one it would be because they feel he would serve their best interests. The initial responsibility of the occupying forces would be to supervise and assure free elections, maintain order and give advice, i e, direction and help. There must be a fairly strong central government. The Russian people must be protected from their own good will.

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